

Success in South Carolina

Investment of Cigarette Tax Funds in Smoking Prevention and Cessation

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

APRIL 2015

A Healthier State

Make every workday great.



A Healthier State

Grant funding from the Duke Endowment has allowed the opportunity for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the S.C. Hospital Association to partner and offer wellness consultation services to all 16 cabinet agencies, DHEC, and the Department of Mental Health.

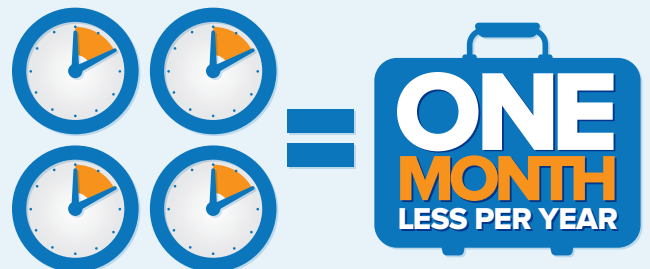
The purpose of the initiative - *A Healthier State* - is to assess, implement and help maintain effective worksite wellness environments and policies within these organizations. Doing so will help reduce health care costs, increase employee productivity, and reduce absenteeism. The initiative comprises tobacco-free campuses, physical activity and breastfeeding-friendly environments.



S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to Launch Tobacco-Free Campus Policy June 1

A tobacco-free agency ensures that everyone who works, visits and does business with that agency is able to breathe clean, smoke-free air. On June 1, 2015, DJJ will become the first cabinet agency to launch a tobacco-free campus policy. The policy is designed to make quitting easier and protect employees from secondhand smoke. No tobacco products are allowed - including smokeless tobacco and e-cigarettes - by anyone on agency property, including parking lots/garages, personal vehicles, sidewalks, and breezeways, at any time. Referrals to cessation services offered through DJJ, DHEC and PEBA will be provided to employees.

Employees who take **four 10-minute breaks** a day to smoke actually work about **one month less per year** than workers who don't take smoke breaks.



DHEC's Role with Tobacco-Free Campuses

DHEC is committed to helping cabinet agencies implement a clean, tobacco-free environment, and **will provide the following free resources:**

- A model 100% tobacco-free worksite policy
- Tools and resources to help communicate policies to employees, customers, vendors and clients
- Consultative services with tobacco program experts to assist with adoption and enforcement
- Permanent tobacco-free outdoor signage

Smoking costs South Carolina **more than \$2 billion annually**, as well as **more than \$1 billion** in lost workplace productivity.



Multi-Unit Housing Adopting Smoke-Free Policies to Protect Residents

Smoke-free multi-unit housing has shifted to the forefront of national health initiatives. The most recent Vital Signs report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that exposure to secondhand smoke is more common among people who rent. Nationwide, the report showed that more than 80 million residents in multi-unit housing are vulnerable to secondhand smoke infiltration from unit to unit. In South Carolina, there are **524,707 people** living in rented housing units - **32.3% who are children under the age of 18**.

With support from CDC, the American Lung Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development strongly encourages the adoption of smoke-free housing policies and programs.

DHEC's Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control has been steadily working with multi-unit housing providers since 2013. With education and technical assistance from DHEC, **209 properties in the state** have adopted and implemented smoke-free policies, resulting in the protection from exposure to secondhand smoke for **more than 18,000 residents**. These efforts have reached far beyond properties managed in S.C. to impact the lives of residents living in Alabama, North Carolina, Florida, and Georgia where the same S.C. management companies own or manage multi-unit housing properties.

Secondhand smoke exposure is a health care cost burden to each state. In the October 2014 issue of the journal *Preventing Chronic Disease*, it was estimated that a total of **\$7 million could be saved annually in S.C.** by making subsidized housing smoke-free, including public housing either owned or operated by a government housing authority. This includes an annual estimated cost savings of **\$3.45 million** on health care related costs, **\$2.82 million** on renovation costs, and **\$750,000** on fire costs related to tobacco use.

S.C. Counties with Highest Quitline Usage MARCH 2015

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Greenville | 6. Florence |
| 2. Spartanburg | 7. Charleston |
| 3. Horry | 8. Anderson |
| 4. Richland | 9. Sumter |
| 5. Lexington | 10. Pickens |

